

# **GeM's Country of Origin Flag**

## Why in news?

The government made it mandatory for sellers on the GeM portal to clarify the country of origin of their goods when registering new products.

### What is the GeM portal?

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is the Commerce Ministry's online marketplace.
- It procures goods and services by various Ministries and government bodies.
- Products sold on the portal range from stationery used by government officials to medical products that are used on patients.

#### What does this decision mean?

- The GeM portal will now have the 'country of origin' flag for their products.
- The portal already has a 'Make in India' filter.
- Therefore, the government offices can ascertain which products have a higher content of indigenously produced raw materials.
- This would help them choose products that meet the 'minimum 50% local content' criterion when selecting bidders for their tenders.
- The portal now allows buyers to reserve a bid for Class I local suppliers, or suppliers of those goods with more than 50% local content.
- For bids below Rs 200 crore, only Class I and Class II (those with more than 20% local content) are eligible.

## Why this decision was taken?

- The decision comes in the backdrop of the government's push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- [Aatmanirbhar Bharat intends to promote self-reliance by boosting the use of locally produced goods.]
- The decision also follows the **clashes between the troops of India and China** in Galwan Valley.
- This prompted several government departments to launch an offensive against imports from China.
- The Confederation of All India Traders is pushing for a country of origin tag

in the private e-commerce firms.

## What would be the impact?

- Over the time, the use of imported goods in government offices and facilities may be filtered out, as the following are combined,
  - 1. Announcement of the 'country of origin' of the products sold on the GeM portal,
  - 2. Make in India campaign &
  - 3. A push for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- This might provide an opportunity to Indian manufacturers across industries to push their products in government facilities.

**Source: The Indian Express** 

